

SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL
23 April 1948

MEMORANDUM

TO: CHIEFS OF FIELD BUREAUS
FROM: ACTING CHIEF, FBI
SUBJECT: INTERCEPTION OF RUSSIAN ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGES

1. It is desired to explore the possibility of intercepting at existing FBI Bureaus Russian administrative messages transmitted in clear text between points within the Soviet Union or to points outside the Soviet Union as in the case of messages to ships at sea. It is known that there is a considerable volume of such clear text messages. It is presumed that they are transmitted in Russian Morse and that they must be carried on a number of international shortwave frequencies because of the distances involved. The possibility of transmission in other types of clear code or on other frequencies should not be excluded however.

2. It is requested that you explore the monitoring potentialities of your Bureau in this field for a period of thirty days. The operation must remain **SECRET** and should be made known only to secure American employees and to as few of them as possible. Intercepted material, together with complete data concerning frequencies, hour, speed and other characteristics of transmission are to be classified **SECRET** and forwarded daily by courier to this office. Intercepts may be translated if possible or forwarded in the original language if necessary.

cc: Chief, West Coast Bureau
Chief, Tokyo Bureau
Chief, Hawaii Bureau
Chief, Mediterranean Bureau
Chief, East Coast Bureau

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